

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 18th DECEMBER 2017 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor M.P. Bonfield (Town Mayor) – Chairman

Councillor J. Bishop

Councillor G. Green

Councillor A. Harris

Councillor G.A. Marsh

Councillor T. Morris

Councillor S. Poultney

Councillor M. Whitwam

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, approximately 30 members of the public attended the Meeting.

Before opening the Meeting, the Chairman welcomed members of the public and made a short statement regarding the fire evacuation procedure, filming/audio recording etc. of the Meeting, and a summary of the procedure for Public Participation Time.

Public Participation Time

The following matters were raised during Public Participation Time:-

- Clinical Services Review - concerns reiterated by the Defend Dorset NHS Group regarding proposed changes to local healthcare, and a request made for the Town Council to lobby the Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee to refer NHS Dorset CCG's proposals to the Secretary of State for independent review at its next meeting being held on 20th December 2017.
- Swanage Coastal Change Forum – a short presentation was given reiterating concerns about climate change and rising sea levels, and details given about sea defence project proposals, and a funding request for employment of a project consultant.

Councillor Bonfield opened the meeting at 7.20 p.m.

166. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Finch, Lejeune and Trite.

Although no official notification had been received, an apology for his inability to attend the Meeting was given on behalf of Councillor Suttle.

167. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were invited to declare their interests and consider any requests for Grants of Dispensations in accordance with paragraphs 9 - 13 of the Council's Code of Conduct and regulations made under chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

There were no declarations to record on this occasion.

The Town Mayor briefly suspended the meeting under Standing Order 1)p and welcomed Father Paul Keys, from St Edward's Catholic Church, who offered a short prayer.

168. **MINUTES**

(a) Proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Morris, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 27th November 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed.

169. **TOURISM COMMITTEE**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Green, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Tourism Committee held on 22nd November 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed.

170. **TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Whitwam, seconded by Councillor Morris, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Transport Committee held on 22nd November 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed.

171. **PLANNING AND CONSULTATION COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by the Town Mayor and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee held on 4th December 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed.

172. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Morris, seconded by Councillor Green and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 6th December 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed.

173. **POLICY, FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Green and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy, Finance and Performance Management Committee held on 13th December 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed.

Consideration was given to the following recommendation contained in the Minutes:-

3. **CARD DETAILS SECURITY POLICY**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Whitwam, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-
That the Card Details Security Policy be adopted, as amended.

174. **BUDGET MONITORING**
Statement of Cash Balance

A Statement of Cash Balance as at 30th November 2017 was submitted for information (a copy attached at end of these Minutes).

175. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Marsh, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the accounts specified in Payment Schedule 9,
amounting to £129,628.32 be authorised.

176. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Bonfield reported that it had been a quiet month, and in his capacity of Mayor he had attended the following events:-

- A presentation given by the Dorset NHS Clinical Commissioning Group at Westport House, Wareham.
- The opening of a photography and art exhibition in Durlston Castle, being held by Year 13 students from the Purbeck School.
- The Town Carol Service in St Mary's Church, Swanage.

Further to Standing Order No. 12) a) viii, it was proposed by the Town Mayor and AGREED:

That Item 9 on the agenda be brought forward to Item 8.

177. **SWANAGE COASTAL CHANGE FORUM (SCCF) – FUNDING REQUEST FOR EMPLOYMENT OF CONSULTANT TO DRAW UP A GRANT APPLICATION/ PROJECT PLAN REGARDING COASTAL DEFENCE IMPROVEMENTS**

Further to the short presentation given in Public Participation Time, and Minute 79 of the Monthly Council Meeting held on 21st August 2017, consideration was given to a Briefing Note dated December 2017 prepared by Mr Malcolm Turnbull, Chairman, SCCF, which set out details of a funding strategy and project plan for resilience improvements, which would be taken forward in three phases. The Town Council was being asked for £15,000 towards phase three, which included the employment by Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust of a consultant to draw up a project brief/ proposals for a coastal defence solution for the area between the Stone Quay and the Victoria Avenue outfall jetty. An application for funding from the Coastal Communities Fund was also being explored.

During the ensuing discussion Members agreed that it was vital that the Council continued to support SCCF in identifying solutions to the challenges of sea level rise, and it was therefore proposed by Councillor Morris, seconded by Councillor Marsh, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That, under the General Power of Competence, the request for funding of £15,000 be approved towards the coastal defence project, to be paid to the Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust.

178. **CLINICAL SERVICES REVIEW (CSR) – UPDATE FROM MEETING BETWEEN CCG AND REPRESENTATIVES OF TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS 29TH NOVEMBER 2017**

Further to Minute No. 153 of the Monthly Council Meeting held on 27th November 2017, the Town Mayor and Councillor Harris reported on the presentation given by NHS Dorset CCG on 29th November 2017, at which officers had also been present from the County Council, and South Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

A discussion ensued, and comments were made that although the presentation had provided some clarification, the CCG's proposals were still considered to be unsatisfactory in some key respects. Reference was made to the District Council's Monthly Council Meeting held on 12th December 2017, at which it had been resolved that, having taken legal advice, the Council would not be contributing financially to fund a judicial review of the CSR. However, it did acknowledge and support local residents' concerns over the review.

It was therefore felt that the Town Council should also continue to lobby the DHSC to refer the proposals to the Secretary of State for independent review, and Members wished it to be noted that the Town Council was also in support of the District Council's resolution.

It was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That local residents' concerns over the review be acknowledged and supported and the Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee be asked to continue opposing the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group's Clinical Services Review.

179. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION – UPDATE AND CONSIDERATION OF E-MAIL TO TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE, DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL (DCC)**

Consideration was given to an email received on 7th December 2017 from the Chief Executive, DCC, encouraging Town and Parish Councils to support the 'Future Dorset' proposals. It was reported that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government was 'minded to' implement the proposals, and had now set a period of representations until 8th January 2018.

During the ensuing discussion disappointment was expressed regarding the content of the email, which had suggested that all town and parish councils had been in support of the proposals.

Further to Minute No. 118 of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 17th October 2016, concerns were again reiterated that a move to a unitary authority could lead to an absence of democracy where it was needed at local level, and comments made that there was still a lack of information regarding the impact of the proposed reorganisation on town and parish Councils, and the delivery of services. In view of the major changes proposed, and the number of questions which remained unanswered, it was felt that a working party should be formed to consider the Council's response to local government reorganisation in greater detail.

It was therefore proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Morris, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That a working party be appointed, consisting of Councillors Bonfield, Green, Finch, Harris and Whitwam, to consider the Council's response to the proposals for local government reorganisation, and present its findings to a future Council Meeting.

It was further proposed by Councillor Bishop, seconded by Councillor Harris, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That a representation be sent to the Chief Executive, DCC, in response to her email dated 7th December 2017, advising that the Town Council continues to have serious concerns regarding the Future Dorset proposals.

180. **EVENTS – REQUESTS FOR USE OF TOWN COUNCIL PROPERTY IN RELATION TO FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

Consideration was given to a Briefing Note dated November 2017 prepared by the Visitor Services Manager (VSM) detailing the following requests:-

(a) **Use of Days Park in relation to ultramarathon event, 21st July 2018**

It was reported that this would be a sizeable event, with up to 2,000 competitors anticipated, during the town's busy season. It was felt that further information was required before a final decision could be made, including details of the event's management plan/risk assessment, the proposed route, wet weather proposals, and proposed use of the Council's North Beach car park. The VSM would contact the event organiser and report back to a future Council Meeting.

(b) **Use of Swanage Bandstand by the Swanage Town Band, various dates**

The Town Band had proposed six dates for concerts in the Bandstand during the summer season. Delegated authority was being requested by the VSM to approve further dates if requested, subject to availability of the Bandstand/progress of the Bandstand Project.

(c) **Use of Sandpit Field and Main Beach in relation to triathlon event, 12th August 2018**

The organiser had previously held triathlon events in Swanage, and provisional approval was being recommended.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Marsh, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the requests from event organisers, as set out in the schedule prepared by the Visitor Services Manager, be approved, subject to submission of the required documentation at the appropriate time, and subject to satisfactory further information being obtained regarding the proposed ultramarathon event on 21st July 2018.

It was further RESOLVED:-

That delegated authority be given to the Visitor Services Manager to approve any further requests from the Town Band during 2018.

181. **PURBECK TOWN AND PARISH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2018 – NOMINATIONS RECEIVED FOR SUBMISSION TO PURBECK DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Further to Minute 159 (d) of the Monthly Council Meeting held on 27th November 2017, it was reported that nominations had now been received for the Volunteer of the Year Award 2018. Members would now be requested to vote by email, and the outcome would be announced at the January 2018 Council Meeting in order for full Council to confirm the award and make the nomination to Purbeck District Council.

It was explained that, in the event of a 'tie', the Town Mayor would have the casting vote.

182. **NORTHBROOK FOOTBRIDGE – REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTION FROM PDC TOWARDS REPLACEMENT AND CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES**

It was reported that the poor condition of the Northbrook footbridge had been brought to the attention of the Town Council by a number of dog walkers recently. The footbridge was the responsibility of Purbeck District Council (PDC), and although the

bridge did not constitute a public right of way, PDC would be considering the possibility of replacing the bridge.

Consideration was given to an email received from PDC which set out three costed options. Members agreed that the bridge was well-used, and concurred that Option 3 would be the preferred option, to demolish and remove the existing bridge and install a new one. If it was decided to retain a bridge in this location, the Environment Agency had agreed that it would contribute a share of the cost, along with PDC and STC. The Town Council was being asked to contribute in view of its ownership of the land on the eastern side of the bridge. Members were agreeable to contributing a third share, up to a maximum of £8,000, however, it would not consider taking ownership of the bridge.

It was therefore proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Morris, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That, under the General Power of Competence, the Town Council agrees to provide financial support to Purbeck District Council towards the installation of a replacement footbridge, up to a maximum of £8,000, subject to a caveat that the Council will only take a 50% responsibility for any future repairs or replacement.

183. **BEACH GARDENS – APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR PAVILION WORKING PARTY**

It was reported that the Town Council would be meeting with representatives from the Bowls and Tennis Clubs to discuss the future management of the pavilion at Beach Gardens. It was felt that a working party should be formed to undertake these discussions, and that this should consist of members from the existing Sports Facilities Working Party.

It was therefore AGREED:

That a working party be appointed, consisting of Councillors Bonfield, Green, Bishop and Poultney, to undertake discussions with the Bowls and Tennis Clubs, and present its findings to a future Council Meeting.

184. **REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

- (a) Councillor Whitwam reported that he had attended the following meetings:-
- Pub Watch Group on 6th December – no ‘Red Cards’ had been issued, and no incidents of anti-social behaviour had been reported in the past month.
 - Purbeck Community Rail Partnership 7th December – details of the 2018 Swanage to Wareham trial rail service had yet to be finalised.

185. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

There were no delegated matters to report at the present time.

186. **ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND MATTERS FOR FORTHCOMING AGENDAS**

Items of Information

- (a) Registration Service and Town Council support –Dorset County Council had confirmed that it was no longer planning to introduce changes to the Registration Service in Swanage during the 2018/19 financial year, and hence the Town Council would not be asked to provide any financial support.

Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

- (b) Transport Committee - request for consideration of new cycle paths between Swanage and Wareham.
- (c) Invitation to Swanage Primary Schools to make a presentation to the Town Council regarding schools funding – concerns had been raised regarding potential future cuts to schools funding.

The meeting concluded at 8.15 p.m.
